

**Amendments to Claims**

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended)** An isolated 16S rDNA sequence indicative of a dechlorinating bacterial strain selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) SEQ ID NO:8, and
- (b) an isolated nucleic acid molecule that is completely complementary to (a) wherein said sequence is indicative of a dechlorinating bacterial strain.

**Claims 2-5 (Canceled)**

**Claims 6 – 14 (Canceled)**